34. 39. Miscellaneous-3-Price Control (c) Grain Purchase—Pay

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I beg to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 37,024. This is necessitated by the extension of the grain purchase staff which used to be extended from time to time. The original allotment was up to the last day of Makaram 1121. The term had to be extended and this amount is necessary to pay that staff and the other expenses in connection with the entertainment of that staff.

Cut Motion No. 3

Reducing the number of hands in the Department

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkncheri):* Sir, I move that the amount of Rs. 37,024 under "39-Miscellaneous-3-Price Control Measures-C-Grain Purchase Pay" be reduced by one rupee—to stress upon the Government the imperative necessity to reduce the unnecessarily large number of hands employed in the Department". I have formally moved the cut, but I would like to get before I proceed further one or two pieces of information if that is available. May I ask for it, Sir?

Mr. Deputy President : Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I would like to know Sir whether there has been any reduction or increase in the number of hands employed in the Supplies Department after the budget session of 1121.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* There has been a reduction and savings to the extent of Rs. 27,394 have been effected in 1121.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I want to know Sir about the reduction of hands, the category of hands reduced also.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The reduction is in respect of 2 grain purchase assistants, their peons have been dispensed with, the posts of 16 clerks have been abolished; the pay of the fieldmen has been reduced from Rs. 25 to Rs. 20, and thus there is a saving.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).* Very commendable, thanks.

Sir, I thank the Hon'ble Member for supplies for the information supplied. Now, Sir, the food question in the State has been and is a vital question. That is so is clear from the fact that soon after the austere system of commandeering was introduced in the middle of 1118, after watching the working of the Department in all its ramifications, this Council used to take opportunities of discussing this question, the food question in those days, from various angles as seen from a particular special debate upon food in 1119 within one year of the starting of the operations. That was followed in a simlar fashion by a motion 1120 Vrischigam, that again was followed, Sir, in the Budget Session of 1120 on a cut motion moved by the Hon'ble Member now representing Trichur Ezhuvas. And in the shape of questions and answers also all the aspects of the food question in the State have been thrashed out in this House. Various sorts of answers have been supplied some attempting to hide the real state of affairs also, while others showing things in their nakedness.

Mr. Deputy President: The cut motion is not upon the food question, it is only to reduce the unnecessary staff, for grain purchase.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, I was giving only a small preface leading to that question. I was referring to these things only to show that the question has been dealt with at length, by this house. The past has been always alive to the issue. These discussions clearly show that to the extent to which the Department is working properly, it had been a case of unstinted praise for the Department, as also its head, but where derelictions of duty were seen, comments in the other way were also equally strong. Occasionally, once in a way there had been response to the representations made by this House, from the various sections of this House, but more often, barring of course those rare exceptions when what is right is, at times, seen to be done by the Government, it had been the other way. The representations of this House will be seen often to have fallen on deaf ears. There was, Sir, in this House specific representation pertaining to this subject, namely, the necessity for reduction of the unnecessarily large number of hands employed in the Department quite recently. I had, Sir, during the Budget discussion, occasion to remark with full statistics in my possession, that the hands employed in

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